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JUN 17 1955

# Revised Sanitation Standards For Wheat

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

... in the 1955 ~~price-support~~ program

Farmers who want to put wheat under the 1955 price-support program must be prepared to meet more specific standards of grain sanitation.

In past years, general requirements have been in effect concerning maintenance of grade and condition—including factors such as insect infestation, foreign matter, and moisture content.

This year, the Food and Drug Administration has resumed a previously suspended wheat sanitation enforcement program which is based on specific minimum standards. These provide that wheat which, on sample test, shows more than the minimum of rodent contamination or insect damage cannot be used for human food. This means that such wheat must be disposed of for nonfood uses.

In line with this enforcement program, the Commodity Credit Corporation has revised the regulations governing the wheat price-support program. Under the new provisions:

- (1) 1955-crop wheat must meet the Food and Drug minimum sanitation requirements to be eligible for price-support loans.
- (2) 1954-crop wheat which has been under price-support loan, or covered by purchase agreement, must meet the minimum sanitation requirements to be eligible for "reseal" loans.
- (3) 1955-crop wheat under loan and resealed 1954-crop wheat must meet the minimum sanitation requirements (those in effect when the wheat went under loan) upon delivery to CCC at the end of the loan

period. If it does not, the "settlement" value will be the price at which the wheat is sold by CCC to the highest bidder for feed, or for industrial uses other than food or beverages. Producers, of course, may redeem their loans if they wish.

(4) 1955-crop wheat which is covered by purchase agreements will not be eligible for delivery to CCC if it fails to meet the minimum sanitation requirements.

## THE SANITATION REQUIREMENTS

Under the Food and Drug program, wheat does not meet the minimum standards for food use if:

- (a) it contains more than two rodent pellets per pint, or comparable amounts of other contamination, or
- (b) it contains 2 percent or more, by weight, of kernels visibly damaged by insects.

The great bulk of the wheat which leaves United States farms is clean grain—well above these minimum standards. Wheat is a food grain. Its price support is based on use for human food. And the domestic flour milling and baking industries have always demanded very high sanitation standards.

Most farmers already handle and store their wheat carefully. This fact is reflected in the record since the Food and Drug Administration resumed the enforcement program this year. Only a small fraction of the wheat sampled has failed to meet the minimum sanitation requirements. The trouble lies with a relatively few exceptions, resulting from carelessness or a combination of adverse circumstances.

The new provisions, therefore, should not work a hardship on producers or disrupt wheat marketing. Reasonable care and the observance of standard clean-grain handling practices will insure that the wheat is acceptable for the price-support program—and for unrestricted movement in regular channels of trade for food use.

The wheat price-support programs will operate as follows with regard to the revised sanitation requirements:

## **1955 WHEAT (Loans and Purchase Agreements)**

Farm-stored wheat offered as security for price-support loans will be sample-tested to see if it meets the minimum sanitation requirements. If it does not, it cannot be accepted as eligible for the loan.

Wheat delivered to a warehouse will also be tested. If a notation accompanying the receipt issued by the warehouseman indicates that the wheat does not meet the minimum sanitation requirements, it cannot be accepted as eligible for the loan.

Farm-stored loan wheat must also meet the minimum sanitation requirements at the time it is delivered to CCC at the end of the loan period. If it does not, and the loan is not redeemed by the producer, CCC will sell the wheat to the highest bidder for nonfood use, and the settlement value will be this sale price.

When loans are made on warehouse-stored wheat, on the basis of a warehouse receipt, the producer has no further responsibility in connection with sanitation requirements. This is the same principle which has applied right along with regard to grade and quality.

In the case of purchase agreements, the wheat will be tested at the time it is delivered to CCC. If the wheat fails to meet the minimum sanitation standards, it will not be eligible for delivery.

For all 1955-crop wheat price-support operations, the normal requirements for price-support eligibility will of course also apply. These will include such provisions as those for grade, compliance with acreage allotments, and production in the current year.

## **1954 WHEAT RESEAL**

Loan or purchase-agreement stocks of 1954-crop wheat which are offered for reseal are sample-tested. If they fail to meet the minimum sanitation requirements, they are not eligible for resealing. Such wheat can be delivered to CCC, under the provisions of the 1954 loan and purchase-agreement programs, even if it is not eligible for the extended reseal loan.

As far as producers are concerned, the new sanitation requirements do not apply to 1954-crop loan or purchase-agreement wheat—except for the question of reseal eligibility.

## FARM STORAGE NEEDED

Wheat storage space will be tight this year. Farm storage will be needed. Producers who have satisfactory space, or space which can be put into safe-storage condition, should plan to use it. CCC loans are available to finance the construction or purchase of new farm-storage bins. Other assistance is also available to help producers handle their wheat harvest and storage operations efficiently and safely.

The Extension Services in wheat States are emphasizing clean grain and can furnish valuable suggestions to meet the needs of each locality.

## A CLEAN-GRAIN CHECKLIST

- (1) Check your storage space in advance, to be sure it is clean and free of contamination. Spray interior.
- (2) Be sure the bin is rodent, bird, and moisture proof. Check floors, walls, eaves, roofs, and all openings.
- (3) Take steps to eliminate rodents from the bin areas. Remove all trash and possible rodent shelter.
- (4) Prevent and control insect infestations. Apply a protective spray or dust at harvest, as grain goes into the bin, or fumigate during storage. Inspect frequently for insect infestation; fumigate when necessary.

See your County Agricultural Agent for suggestions and help on clean-grain operations in your area. Federal and State bulletins on insect and rodent control are available.

Check with your County ASC Committee for details of the minimum sanitation requirements as they affect the wheat price-support program.